and mill sectors till March, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Government of India have set up a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for modernisation of textile and jute industries.

(b) The Scheme was made operational with effect from 1.4.1999. It envisages reimbursement of interest of 5% on loans taken by borrowers as per approved parameters of technology upgradation, through Nodal Agencies (IDBI, SIDBI & IFCI) and co-opted financial institutions.

(c) A total of Rs. 1002.54 crores has been disbursed to the textile industry under the scheme as on 30.6.2000.

(d) There is no sectoral allocating of loan under this scheme. Loans sanctioned to the SSI units was Rs. 92.93 crore and to the medium and large was Rs. 1909.24 crores as on 31.3.2000.

Cheaper clothes for poors

†1233. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to launch any scheme in the country for providing clothes at cheaper rates to the poors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Although there is no specific proposal before the Government to launch any scheme to provide cloth at cheaper rates, the Government policy in general is aimed at providing facilities to weavers and creating a capable and vibrant industry which will produce cloth of reasonable quality at acceptable prices for all sections of the population.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.